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## DG News Update: Special Issue Vol. 3

*This is the third of a series of special DG News Updates marking the 10 years of the DGP-Net (1998-2008).*

**2008 – Combined Issue No.60 - 61**

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### Feature Topic

#### [DGP-Net : Cultivating a Spirit of Peer Assistance and Problem-Solving - Kemal Dervis](#)



[21/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Kemal Dervis, New York]. The DGP-Net – along with UNDP's other knowledge networks - has done a great deal to help UNDP overcome barriers to sharing knowledge, experience and ideas, and helped cultivate a spirit of peer assistance and problem-solving. [more...](#)



#### [DGP-Net: Leading us by Knowledge and Example - Olav Kjørven](#)

[20/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Olav Kjørven, New York]. In 10 years, the DGP-Net has responded to thousands of queries and requests for assistance from the COs, Regional Centers, Sub-Regional Resource Facilities and partner agencies. Such substantive and operational support came in the form of Consolidated Replies, News Updates, DG Insights, Case Studies, Lessons Learned, and Collection of Good and, 'Not so Good' practices. The frequent ranking of the DGP-Net as top UNDP practice network in 'UNDP HQ Products and Services Survey' amply testifies to this. The DGP-Net contributed fundamentally to the gradual UNDP organizational culture change from hierarchy driven vertical knowledge sharing to community driven horizontal knowledge sharing. [more...](#)

### Leadership and Innovation in Governance Series: 2008 in Review



[17/12/08] Early this year, the DGP-Net launched the Leadership and Innovation in Governance Series which features various initiatives that reflect challenges and novel approaches in "delivering governance". Articles in the series included: Leadership Development in the Caribbean: Building Capacity, Mobilizing Youth Leaders; Promoting Innovation in Government; the Asia Young Leaders in Governance Initiative; Women's Leadership in Local Government in Africa; Rethinking Democratic Governance and Leadership for Achieving Millennium Development Goals; Making the Case for Leadership Support; and Maximizing the Impact of Leadership Support Interventions. [more...](#)

### Thailand: Best Practices in Democratic Local Governance



[16/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Mallika Sukumalchart, Thailand]. Under a DGTF funded project, UNDP Thailand and the Department of Local Administration (DLA) of the Royal Thai Government organized a one-day knowledge fair where they showcased information about good practices in democratic governance, accountability and anti-corruption in Thailand with the active engagement of local communities. The knowledge fair, held at the BITEC Exhibition Centre in Bangkok, brought together about 1,000 local government leaders and officials from the Central and Eastern Regions, as well as students, academics and media representatives. The findings and results of a joint UNDP and DLA project entitled "Enhancing Democratic Governance and Accountability through Gender Sensitive Engagement of Local Communities" (ENGAGE) were also presented. [more...](#)

## **DG CoP on WIKI: DGP-Net Celebrates 10 years of Knowledge Sharing**

### DGP-Net Scrapbook: 10 Years of Knowledge Sharing - Click n' Comment on the Scrapbook



[15/12/08] This year, the Democratic Governance Practice Network (DGP-Net) is celebrating 10 years of knowledge-sharing across the organization. The network originated in 1998 as a mailing group of governance practitioners across the globe who, of their own accord, shared lessons and advice, demonstrating that colleagues in Peru had something to share with colleagues in Benin and Bangladesh. 10 years later, the DGP-Net has responded to thousands of queries and requests for assistance from the COs, Regional Centers, Sub-Regional Resource Facilities and partner agencies. Such substantive and operational supports came in the form of Consolidated Replies, News Updates, DG Insights, Case Studies, Lessons Learned, and, Collection of Good and, 'Not so Good' practices. The DGP-Net and other UNDP knowledge networks contributed fundamentally to the gradual change of UNDP organizational culture from hierarchy driven vertical knowledge sharing to community driven horizontal knowledge sharing. As part this "10 years of knowledge sharing" celebration, we invite you to other members' experience with the network and to share your comments, stories, and critiques on this long journey with the Democratic Governance Community of Practice on our wiki-scrapbook. We encourage you to send comments, memories; and stories with pictures to DGP-Net at [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org); or post them on Wiki! [more...](#)

View contributions to the Scrapbook below:

- **From the current DGP-Net Facilitator:** [A. H. Monjurul Kabir](#)
- **From Past Network Facilitators:** [Kim Henderson](#) and [Andrea Pappan](#)
- **From Solution Exchange & Network Members:** [Steve Glovinsky](#); [Sam Ibanda](#) and [Bashir Abu Jamous](#)

### **DGP-Net Lessons Learned Series: Strengthening Community of Practice - A Strategic Agenda for Action**



[13/12/08] The value of Communities of Practice (CoPs) should be measured by the usefulness they bring to practitioners in their work and their ultimate development impact. Of course, value can be added to the CoPs through a host of activities, including Face to Face (F2F) meetings, support missions, study tours, virtual discussion forums, mutual support initiative, innovation fund, participation fund, fellowship, intensive CO-to-CO support, e-discussion formal training, resource mobilization, etc.). Following a wide range of online and offline consultations, the present guidance note attempts to identify some of the lessons learned and good practices to strengthen the CoP processes and functioning. While highlighting different ways communities could impact individuals and organizations (e.g. increasing learning and knowledge sharing or motivation and commitment for members), several factors in the Guidance Note also focus on one of the dimensions of individual and organizational impact: increased performance. [more...](#)

### **DG Insights Live!**

[12/12/08] DG Insights is an online publication for the Democratic Governance Community of Practice (CoP) that seeks to highlight emerging trends and substantive issues UNDP/UN practitioners and the larger research community are grappling with and to promote deeper understanding on democracy and democratic governance. Past DG Insights issues have addressed Local Governance experience with the Panchayati Raj in India; the prevention of vote buying in Mexico, the linkages between knowledge poverty and freedom of information; social accountability and democratic governance; the democratization challenges in the Arab States and the Zambian experience with the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

Network members with pertinent experiences and/or thematic expertise on specific governance issues are invited to submit comments and read other DG Insights products on our DG Insights Live! wiki or by sending an email to [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org). [more...](#)

## **Practice News**

### **Financing for Development Conference Outcome - Kemal Dervis**



[14/12/08] The 2008 Financing for Development Conference concluded with a strong reaffirmation of the international community's commitment to tackle global poverty and achieve the MDGs. In particular, the commitment to scale up assistance to developing countries, including the aim of allocating 0.7 percent of developed countries GNP as aid to developing countries by 2015, was reaffirmed. UNDP's side event on the need for renewed multilateralism, one that recognizes the particular vulnerability of poor countries to the negative impact of the interconnected challenges of financial instability, volatile prices for food and energy, and unacceptable levels of hunger, poverty and inequality, set a theme on the first day of the conference that was echoed throughout the four days of discussion and deliberation. [more...](#)

## **Network Happenings**

### **Latest Consolidated Replies**



[10/12/08] Consolidated Reply: Kosovo/ NHDR and perceptions on civil society; Consolidated Reply: Uzbekistan/ Comparative Experiences/ Drafting a Law for Youth Policy; Revised Consolidated Reply: Afghanistan / Comparative Experiences / Establishing Anti-Corruption Bodies; E-Consultation Reference Note: Gender in Anti Corruption Strategies; Consolidated Reply: The

Gambia/Comparative Experiences/ Supporting Capacity Development of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Missions; [more...](#)

### **Open Queries**

[08/12/08] To contribute to any of these open queries, or submit a new one, please send an email to [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org). [more...](#)

## **Announcements**

### **UNDEF 3rd Round Funding for Projects that Promote Democracy**



[07/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Bharati Sadasivam, New York]. The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) invites civil society organizations to apply for funding for projects to promote democracy. UNDEF funds projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The thematic categories for applications are: democratic dialogue and support for constitutional processes; civil society empowerment, including the empowerment of women; civic education and voter registration; citizen's access to information; participation rights and the rule of law in support of civil society; transparency and integrity. Priority will be given to projects that enhance inclusiveness and gender equality. Applicants should submit their proposals online by 31 December, 2008. [more...](#)

## **Events**

### **UN Day for South-South Cooperation: 19 December 2008**



[06/12/08] The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP is pleased to mark this year's event by launching the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo from 16-18 December in UN HQ as a platform for showcasing innovative Southern-grown development solutions and launching new partnership initiatives. This annual event will provide an opportunity for the international community to celebrate the spirit of solidarity behind the massive changes taking place as developing countries collaborate to transform the South into a hub of ideas, technological innovations, creativity and solutions to pressing development challenges. [more...](#)



### **South-South Human Development Stock Exchange (SS-HDSX) Launched**

[05/12/08] Emphasizing the role of South-South cooperation in meeting development and economic challenges, UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis said, "Within the global economic context, building stronger North-South, and especially South-South, partnerships will be important to leverage the potential of the South to respond to the economic crisis." To that end, the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has launched the South-South Human Development Stock Exchange (SS-HDSX) on 16 December 2008. The SS-HDSX will act as an online marketplace for cooperation projects. The "social stock exchange" is a place where social investors could go online to find information about different projects in need of funding. In a world with so

many different organizations and projects in need of funding, such a mechanism would be a vital tool to help screen civil society organizations before allowing them to post their projects, and provide accountability and transparency for interested social investors. Since it opened, the São Paulo social stock exchange has received more than \$5.5 million online pledges to 71 philanthropic organizations and is now expanding to environmental projects. [more...](#)

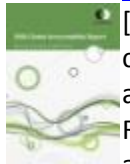
## Resources

### [Peace Building and Reconstruction - 2008 Congo \(DR\) NHDR](#)



[04/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Dominique Kabeya, Congo (DR)]. The 2008 National Human Development Report for the Democratic Republic of Congo was prepared by a team of experts from the University of Kinshasa with the support of UNDP DR Congo. The Report contributes to the search for ways to engage this large sub-Saharan Africa country on a sustainable development path, by proposing an approach that is based on six pillars: peace building; restoration of the state authority throughout the national territory; fairness in administering justice and national reconciliation; recasting the economic production mode; the promotion of good governance and participation; and culture of moral and ethical values. The 2008 NHDR argues that the absence of peace and lack of security constitute major hurdles to sustainable human development in DRC. Thus, it is an imperative to restore peace and security. Congo must also reverse the tendencies which explain and prolong the state's weakness. [more...](#)

### [Accountability in Action: 2008 Global Accountability Report - One World Trust](#)

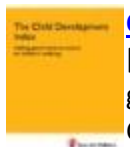


[04/12/08] The results of this year's Global Accountability assessment reveal overall accountability capabilities scores around the 70% mark, indicating that the organisations assessed have accountability policies and systems in place that meet only some good practice principles. This year's Report also reflects on what the data from 2006 and 2007 and 2008 indicates about the state of accountability. The findings offer broad insights into common scoring patterns across the four dimensions of accountability, sector strengths and weaknesses, and gaps in accountability in global governance. [more...](#)



### [The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008](#)

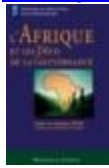
[03/12/08] The eight MDGs have been adopted by the international community as a framework for development activities in over 190 countries in ten regions; they have been articulated into over 20 targets and over 60 indicators. This Report summarizes progress towards the goals in each of the regions. However, any such synthesis inevitably masks the range and variety of development experiences in individual countries since the goals were adopted. [more...](#)



### [Child Development Index - Save the Children](#)

[02/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Alejandro Grinspun, Mexico]. Are some countries making good progress in improving child well-being? Is it getting worse in other countries? Save the Children's new Child Development Index is the world's first and only tool to answer these questions. It combines each country's performance in three areas specific to children to produce a score on a scale of 0 to 100. Japan is in first place, scoring just 0.4. Niger in Africa is in 137th place, with the highest score, 58, in 2000-2006. The index reveals that Africa is doing the worst, but contains the best performance; while South Asia's performance is not improving. [more...](#)

### **[Les Enjeux de Gouvernance en Somalie: Priorités de Gouvernance Locale et Décentralisation \(French\) - UNDP](#)**



[02/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Luigi Tessori; Dakar]. This new publication “L’Afrique et les défis de la Gouvernance” addresses the intricacies of governance on the African continent. It includes a chapter written by UNDP adviser Luigi Tessori in partnership with Dr .Abdirizak Osman Hassan “Jurile”, Former Minister for Planning and International Cooperation of the Federal Transitional Government of Somalia; that addresses the governance challenges with respect to local governance and decentralization in Somalia. Kindly note that this resource is in French. [more...](#)

### **[New Book: Broadcasting, Voice, and Accountability - World Bank](#)**



[01/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Lenni Montiel, New York]. This book provides guidelines, tools, and real world examples to help assess and reform the enabling environment for media development that serves public interest goals. It builds on a growing awareness of the role of media and voice in the promotion of transparent and accountable governance, in the empowerment of people to better exercise their rights and hold leaders to account; and in support of equitable development including improved livelihoods, health, and access to education. The book provides development practitioners with an overview of key policy and regulatory issues involved in supporting freedom of information and expression and enabling independent public service media. Country examples are provided to illustrate how these norms have been institutionalized in various contexts. [more...](#)

## **[Job Vacancies](#)**

### **[DG Vacancies and Consultancies](#)**

[09/10/08] To view the latest Vacancy and Consultancy announcements, please see [more...](#)

